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COMPACT DISPLAY ASSEMBLY**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

The present application is a continuation of, and claims the benefit of, U.S. application Ser. No. 10/066,621 filed on Feb. 6, 2002 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,688,528, the entire contents of which are herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a compact display assembly. In a particular embodiment the invention relates to a display assembly incorporating a liquid crystal display (LCD) though other displays, such as an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display might also be used.

2. Description of Related Art

It is now possible to obtain LCD devices having substrates made of a flexible plate, for example a plastic film. Such devices may be mounted on non-planar surfaces. One such LCD is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,674,840 to Bennett. More recently, another flexible LCD device has been described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,204,902 to Kim et al.

Considerable research is presently being undertaken in relation to the development of OLED displays. OLED displays are made according to a multi-layer process by which an extremely thin polymer layer is sandwiched between two electrodes. A few layers of atoms from an indium-tin-oxide (ITO) transparent electric conductor are sputtered on transparent, flexible carrier films to form an anode. The anode is spin-coated with a very thin layer of electroluminescent polymers. Centrifugal forces distribute the polymers, liquefied by solvents, in an absolutely uniform manner. In a final step a mechanically flexible cathode, being a combination of various metals, is sputtered on the component. The final product is flexible and less than 500 nm in thickness.

The manufacture of a display assembly which incorporates a flexible display poses a number of problems. One problem is that while the displays are flexible they will be damaged or their operation will be impaired if they are creased. Another difficulty is that although the display is flexible the associated driving circuitry is most readily mounted on rigid printed circuit boards. Accordingly a number of connections must be made between a flexible display and one or more rigid circuit boards which presents difficulties.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a display assembly which incorporates a flexible display and which is arranged so that the display may be folded or curved over on itself without creasing.

Accordingly the present invention provides a display assembly that includes a flexible display screen that has a plurality of connection points. At least two printed circuit boards (PCBs) are located at the rear of the screen and define a longitudinal region of the screen therebetween. Flexible connectors are located between the connection points located in the longitudinal region and each of the PCBs. An edge of the screen and edges of the PCBs define triangles, wherein the flexible connectors are of sufficient length to accommodate closing of the assembly about the longitudinal region.

Preferably said edge of the screen and edges of the PCBs define right triangles with the flexible connectors terminating along hypotenuses of the triangles.

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Preferably the printed circuit boards are shaped so that the sum of the lengths of the hypotenuses is equal to said length of the display screen.

The flexible connectors may terminate along edges of the printed circuit board defining the longitudinal region of the screen.

In a preferred embodiment the screen comprises a flexible liquid crystal display.

Alternatively the screen may comprise an organic light emitting diode display.

The display assembly may be incorporated into a computational device, for example a laptop computer or electronic book.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is plan view of the front of a prior art display assembly.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the rear of a prior art display assembly.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the front of a display.

FIG. 4 is a plan view of the rear of a display assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention in a compact configuration.

FIG. 6 is a plan view of an assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention in a display configuration.

FIG. 7 is a plan view of the rear of a display assembly according to a further embodiment of the present invention in a compact configuration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In order that members of the public may understand how the present invention may be put into practice a preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described.

A schematic view of a typical prior art passive matrix display assembly 10 is shown in FIG. 1. The liquid crystal display 12 is designed to display dot pattern images. A plurality of row and column electrodes are horizontally and vertically disposed across the liquid crystal display. Connection points for the electrodes are located along edges of the liquid crystal display.

Circuit boards 14 and 18 are coupled to the row and column electrodes of the LCD by means of tape automated bonding (TAB) films 22 and 24. PCB's 14 and 18 support circuitry including a row driver chip and column driver chip, 26 and 28 respectively, for applying potentials to selected row and column electrodes in order to selectively activate liquid crystal cells to form a display. For mounting in an apparatus such as a laptop computer or mobile phone the printed circuit boards 18 and 14 may be folded back behind the screen as shown in FIG. 2, which is a rear view of the display assembly.

It will be realized that flexing of the LCD 12 would place a strain on the TAB connections 22, 24 to each of PCBs 14 and 18.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to FIG. 3. FIG. 3 depicts a flexible LCD screen 30 including TAB connections 32 and 34 for connecting to display row electrodes.

Beneath the lower edges of the flexible LCD 30 there are located two angled TAB strips 36 and 38. Connection points on each of the angled TAB strips are connected to column electrodes of the LCD display by means of flexible wire